

Administrative Office of the Courts

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

NOFA #: N17000325I

NOFA Issued: December 17, 2015; Updated: January 12, 2015



Department of Family Administration

Court Appointed Special Advocate Grants

The Maryland Judiciary receives state funds each year to support Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs in the state of Maryland. CASA programs train and supervise volunteer advocates assigned to serve children who have been found to be in need of assistance (CINA). The CASA volunteer is considered a friend of the court and is appointed at the judge's discretion to represent the child's best interests.

The CASA Programs are authorized to operate in Maryland subject to approved Rules and Guidelines, by [Courts and Judicial Proceedings Article, §3-830](#).

Grant Purpose

CASA grants are being offered by the Department of Family Administration to support the responsibilities of CASA programs as outlined in the Rule. Pursuant to Rule §3-830, CASA programs train and support volunteer advocates who provide the court with background information to aid the court in making decisions in the child's best interest; and ensure that the child is provided appropriate case planning and services. These grants are intended to maintain current program services and encourage an increase in capacity in areas of highest need.

Eligible Applicants

Any government/government entities, non-profit organizations or institutions of higher education administering a CASA program. To be eligible for funding, the applicant must be a member in good standing of both the Maryland and the National CASA Association and in compliance with [NCASAA standards](#).

Availability and Awards of Funds

The availability of funds is contingent upon the provision of funds in the Maryland Judiciary budget by the Maryland General Assembly for Fiscal Year 2017. Applicants who are awarded funding will receive notice in early June of 2016.

Funding Cycle: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Special Requirements

CASA grantees must provide a 100% match for their total CASA grant award.

Both cash (at least 75%) and in-kind (no more than 25%) may constitute match.

More details about this requirement are found in the Special Conditions for CASA Grants.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Application Release Date: January 12, 2016

Application Due: **April 4, 2016 (NEW DATE)**

Documents: Scanned PDF submitted by email only

Email: Subject Line: "CASA, Applicant Name"
(Please submit emails with the Subject Title as described.)

Delivery Address: DFAGrants@mdcourts.gov

Grant Submission Checklist

The following documents must be submitted as one scanned file:

- ☐ Signed Application Cover Sheet with Application
- ☐ Proposed Budget with Justification
- ☐ Support Letters* CASA programs must provide a support letter from each court they serve.

*Support Letters may be sent directly from the author. If so, they do not need to be included in the application file.

Additional Terms & Requirements

General Grant Conditions

Special Conditions for the Special Project Grant Program

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Web Meeting: February 9th @ 2pm

(RSVP to DFAGrants@mdcourts.gov to obtain link)

This meeting is NOT mandatory and will be recorded for those who are unable to participate at the scheduled time.

Successful Applicant Tools & Tips

- Before submitting your application, read the NOFA, General Conditions, Special Conditions and application instructions in their entirety.
- If needed, seek guidance with department staff prior to the application deadline.
- Whenever possible, provide timely data in your responses that demonstrates the effectiveness of your program.
- Provide a justification for every budgeted line item.
- Review your application packet before submission.

Questions: DFAGrants@mdcourts.gov / 410-260-1262

Application Forms Available